

Obituary

Robert Forgan, 1891–1976

Dr. Robert Forgan, senior member of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases, died on January 8, 1976.

Robert Forgan was born on March 10, 1891, at Montrose in Scotland. He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, graduated M.A. in 1911 and M.B. B.Ch in 1915, and proceeded M.D. in 1924. He served in the R.A.M.C. from 1915 to 1920, latterly as a venereologist. He was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches.

After demobilization he took the D.P.H. and in 1921 he was appointed Venereal Diseases Officer to the Lanarkshire Joint Committee. He resigned in 1929 to become M.P. for West Renfrewshire and retired from politics in 1934. He then joined the medical staff of May and Baker Limited, where he continued to work part-time after retiring age.

Dr. Forgan was the last surviving founder member of the M.S.S.V.D. He was Secretary of the Working Party which took the first steps in forming the Society, and he drafted the first constitution. He was a member of Council from 1924 to 1929, and Vice-President from 1929 to 1930, and remained a keen supporter of the Society. He was a fluent speaker and entertained the Society with a lively account of its history at the Jubilee Meeting held in 1972 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. He also published a paper on the history of the treatment of trichomoniasis in the Jubilee Issue of this Journal in 1972 and he continued with medical editorial work until quite recently.

He had a warm personality and made many friends at home and abroad. He is survived by his wife, by the daughter of an earlier marriage, and by a son and two daughters.

Bruce P. Webster

Professor Bruce P. Webster, the well-known American physician and venereologist, died suddenly in his apartment in Manhattan on January 6, 1976. He was emeritus professor of clinical medicine at Cornell University Medical School and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses. He had recently presented a paper at the Anglo-American Conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases organized by the Royal Society of Medicine in London in June, 1975.

Bruce Webster was born in Canada in Lansdowne, Ontario, and received his medical education at McGill University. After working as an intern at Montreal General Hospital, he became assistant resident in medicine and Jacques Loeb Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. It was here that he began his research into syphilis which was continued in the U.S.A. and Europe as a fellow in medicine of the National Research Council. In 1931 he was appointed assistant professor of medicine at Tulane University for one year and in 1932 he became